

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 15476 290221Z

64

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

DPW-01 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 RSR-01 /123 W

----- 078801

P 280110Z AUG 73 ZFD

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6467

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 15476

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, SWEL, MOPS, CA, VS

SUBJ: NEWLY-ARRIVED KHMER REFUGEES TELL OF FIGHTING BETWEEN VC/NVA
AND KI

FOLLOWING CABLE SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY SAIGON INFO USSAG NAKHON
PHANOM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH 25 AUG FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO
BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE

CAN THO 0677

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, SWEL, MOPS, CA, VS

SUBJECT: NEWLY-ARRIVED KHMER REFUGEES TELL OF FIGHTING
BETWEEN VC/NVA AND KI

1. SOME 2500 CAMBODIAN REFUGEES FROM KAMPOT PROVINCE HAVE LEFT
THEIR HOME AREAS IN THE WAKE OF FRICTION THERE BETWEEN VC/NVA
TROOPS AND KHMER INSURGENTS (KI), ACCORDING TO ONE GROUP OF
REFUGEES. ABOUT 350 OF THESE REFUGEES ARE NOW IN THANH KHANH
HOA VILLAGE IN WESTERN TINH BIEN DISTRICT, CHAU DOC PROVINCE.
THE OTHERS (367 FAMILIES, 2138 PEOPLE) ARE AT TWO LOCATIONS IN
HA TIEN DISTRICT, KIEN GIANG PROVINCE: XA XIA PAGODA (VS 4150)
AND THACH DONG HAMLET (VS 4350). ALL THE REFUGEES ARRIVED IN
VIETNAM IN EARLY AUGUST.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 15476 290221Z

2. THE TANH KHANH HOA REFUGEES TOLD THE CHAU DOC PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE AUGUST 21 THAT THEY ARE FARMERS FROM KAMPOT PROVINCE. THEY SAID THEY LEFT BECAUSE OF VC/NVA-KI FIGHTING AND THE CONTINUING EXPLOSIVE AND UNCERTAIN ATMOSPHERE THAT PREVAILS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. THE REFUGEES SEEM NOT TO HAVE MADE AN UNDULY HURRIED EXIT, SINCE THEY BROUGHT WITH THEM CATTLE, RICE, AND SOME POSSESSIONS. THEY STATED THAT THE VC/NVA THEY MET ON THEIR JOURNEY DID NOT CARE WHETHER THEY WENT INTO VIETNAM, BUT THE KI DID NOT WANT THEM TO GO. THE REFUGEES SAID THAT BOTH THE VC/NVA AND KI NOW HAVE MANY JEEPS, TRUCKS AND HONDAS CAPTURED FROM THE FANK AND ARE ABLE TO PATROL MORE EXTENSIVELY THAN BEFORE.

3. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE REFUGEES CAME FROM NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT FOX BUTTERFIELD WHO VISITED THE THANH KHANH HOA REFUGEE SITE AUGUST 24. BUTTERFIELD TOLD CONGEN OFFICERS THAT REFUGEES TOLD HIM THEIR VILLAGE IN FAR NORTHERN KAMPOT PROVINCE HAD QUARTERED NVA SOLDIERS SINCE THE FALL OF SIHANOUK. RECENTLY, THEY SAID, KHMER LIBERATION (I.E., KI) SOLDIERS CAME TO THE VILLAGE AND TRIED TO MAKE THE NVA LEAVE. THE KI TOLD THE PEOPLE "WE MUST GET ALL THE VIETNAMESE OUT OF OUR COUNTRY", AND COMPLAINED THAT THE VIETNAMESE DO NOTHING FOR THE CAMBODIANS, BUT ONLY TAKE FROM THEM. WHEN THE NVA REFUSED TO LEAVE, FIGHTING BROKE OUT WHICH, ACCORDING TO THE REFUGEES, LEFT "MANY DEAD. IT WAS FROM THIS SITUATION THAT THE REFUGEES SOUGHT TO ESCAPE.

4. BUTTERFIELD NOTED THAT THE REFUGEES WITH WHOM HE HAD SPOKEN WERE PEASANTS WITH NO EXPERIENCE OUTSIDE THEIR OWN VILLAGE; THAT THEY MADE NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN VC AND NVA BUT LUMPED THEM TOGETHER AS "VIETNAMESE"; AND THAT THEY SEEMED NO MORE SYMPATHETIC TO THE KI THAN TO THE NVA.

5. THE BA TIEN REFUGEES, WHO ARRIVED IN VIETNAM FROM JULY 28 TO AUGUST 6, SAY THEY LEFT CAMBODIA BECAUSE OF KHMER ROUGE HARASSMENT. THEY CLAIM THE INSURGENTS STOLE FROM THEM, FORCED THEIR YOUNG MEN TO FIGHT OR CULTIVATE FOOD FOR THEM, AND IMPRESSED OLDER MEN AS PORTERS. OUR KIEN GIANG DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS THE VIETNAMESE SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICE AND RED CROSS ARE BOTH AT WORK AIDING THE NEW ARRIVALS. LEHMANN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 15476 290221Z

UNQUOTE.
MARTIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON15476
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MARTIN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730811/aaaaahlp.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEWLY-ARRIVED KHMER REFUGEES TELL OF FIGHTING BETWEEN VC/NVA AND KI
TAGS: SREF, SWEL, MOPS, CA, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005